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8 November 1963

ER 63-8440

The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ros:

This follows up on our meeting of 22 October which was held to discuss the NRO budget. At this meeting we discussed the problem of how to insure that the NRP is fully responsive to intelligence requirements. I have also discussed this problem at considerable length on two occasions with Dr. Eugene Fubini.

There is, I believe, agreement that the NRO would be strengthened by the active participation of additional officers with CIA experience in various capacities. General Carter and Dr. Wheelon are working with Dr. Fubini and Dr. McMillan to determine assignments appropriate for such officers.

In this connection, our agreement concerning the management of the NRP provides for the designation of appropriate officials of the office of the Secretary of Defense and CIA to examine and monitor on their behalf the activities of the NRO. I have designated Dr. Wheelon to act in this capacity. I am sure that he will work closely and effectively with Dr. Fubini who, I understand, is performing this function on behalf of your office.

We are also agreed, as I understand it, that the procedures under which the Secretary of Defense and I afford policy guidance to the NRO would be greatly improved by regularly scheduled meetings to be attended by appropriate senior officials of DOD, CIA and NRO.

I plan personally to participate in such meetings and hope that you will also find it possible to attend. The meetings would provide an opportunity for regular, periodic review and discussion of the policy aspects of all current programs and activities of the NRO and for policy review and approval of all plans and proposals for future programs and operations.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

John A. McCone  
Director

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